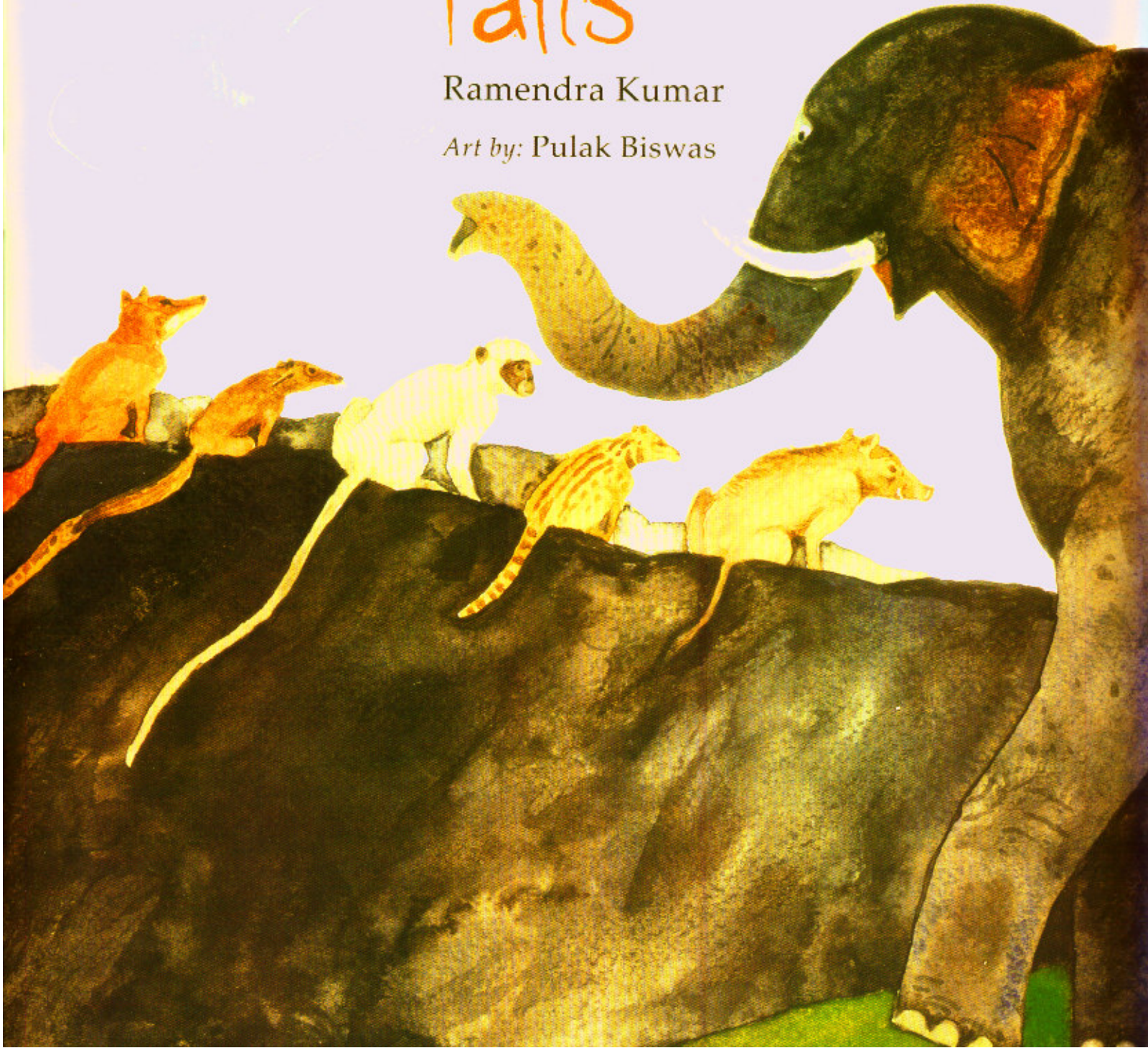




A Tale of Tails

Ramendra Kumar

Art by: Pulak Biswas



This title was developed in an author-illustrator workshop held in Goa from 26 to 29 June 2012.

ISBN 978-81-237-6712-3

First Edition 2013 (*Saka* 1934)

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₹ 45.00

Published by the Director, National Book Trust, India

Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II

Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070

Nehru Bal Pustakalaya

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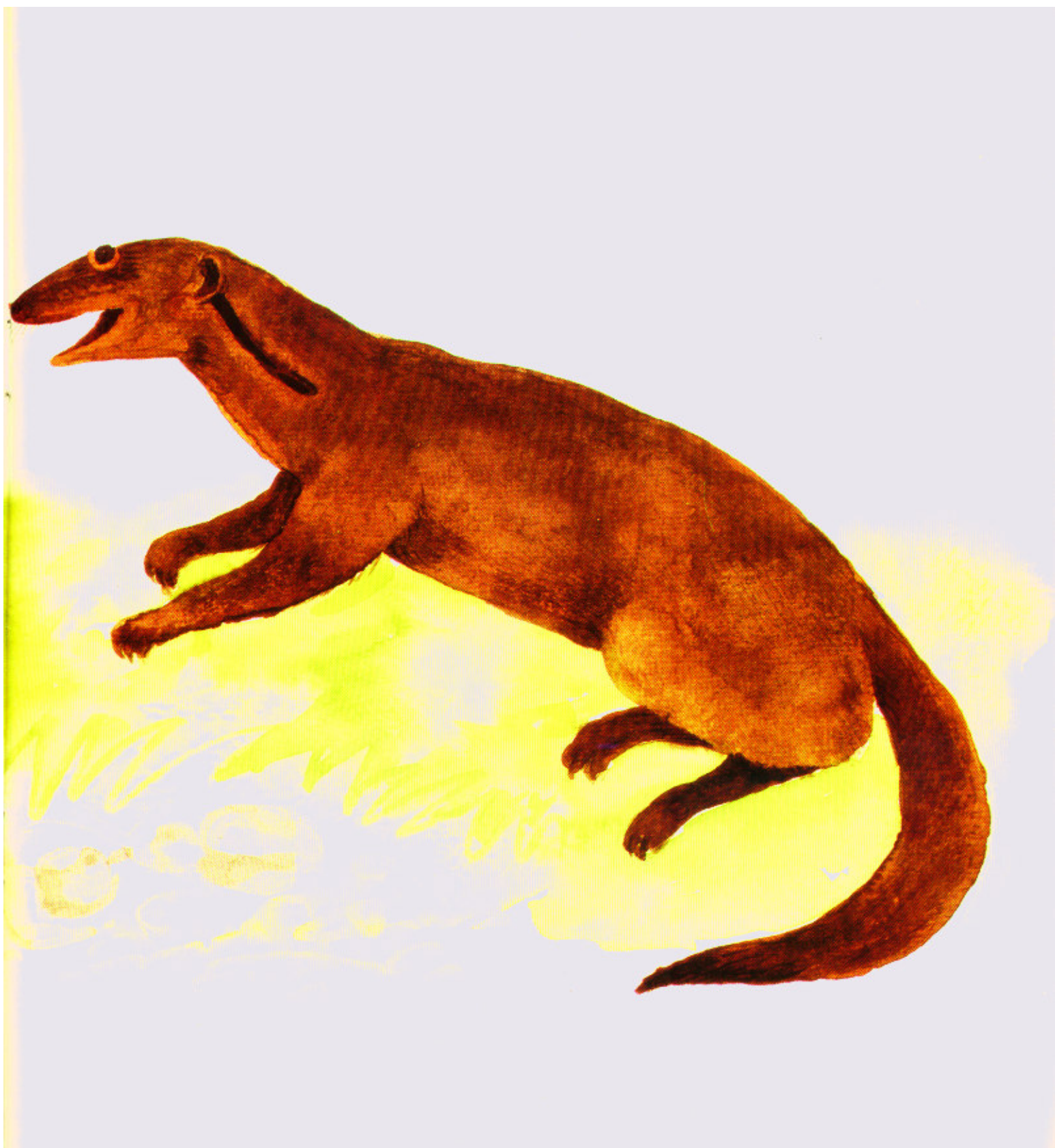
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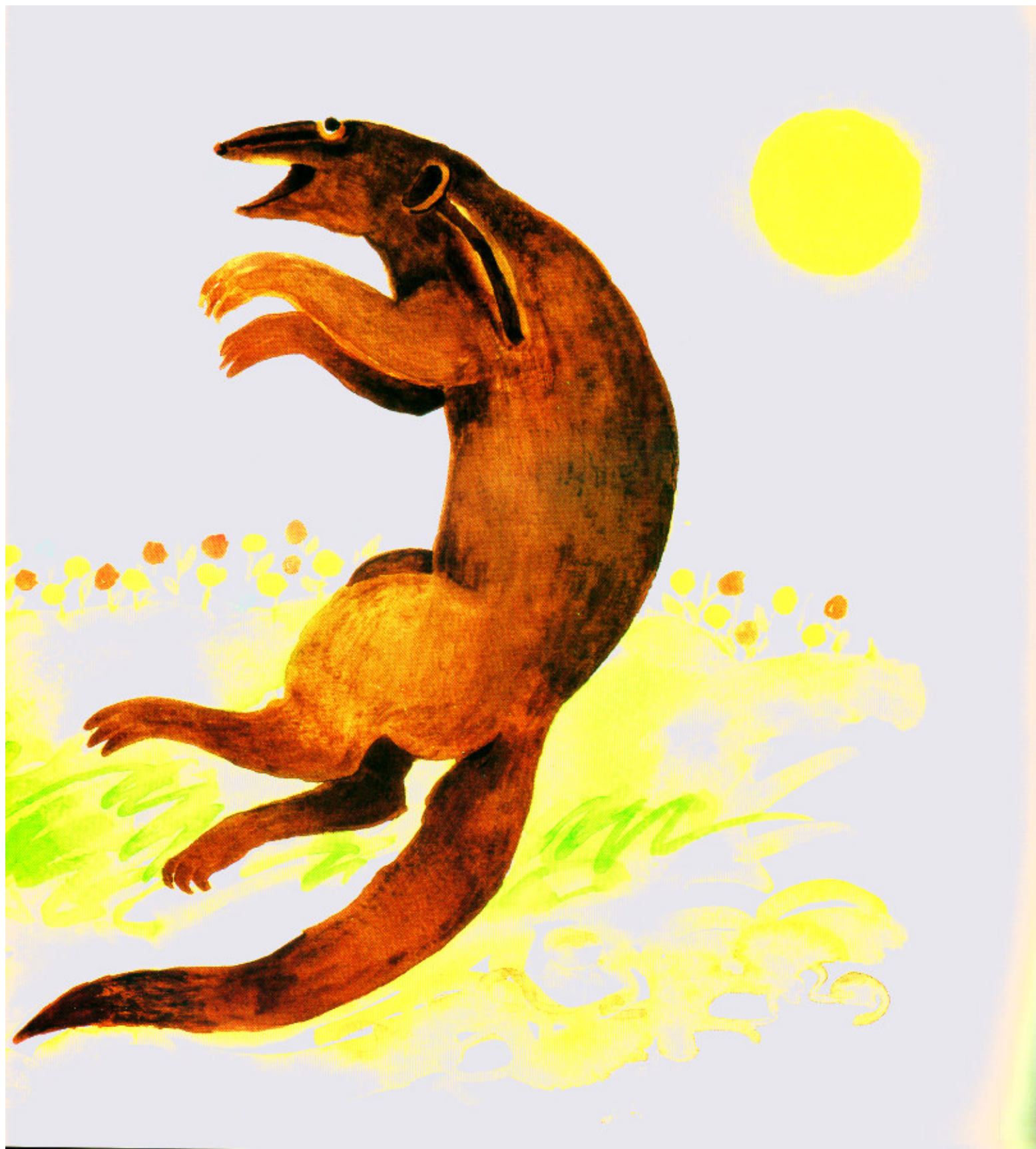
A long time ago a Snake and a Mongoose were best friends.





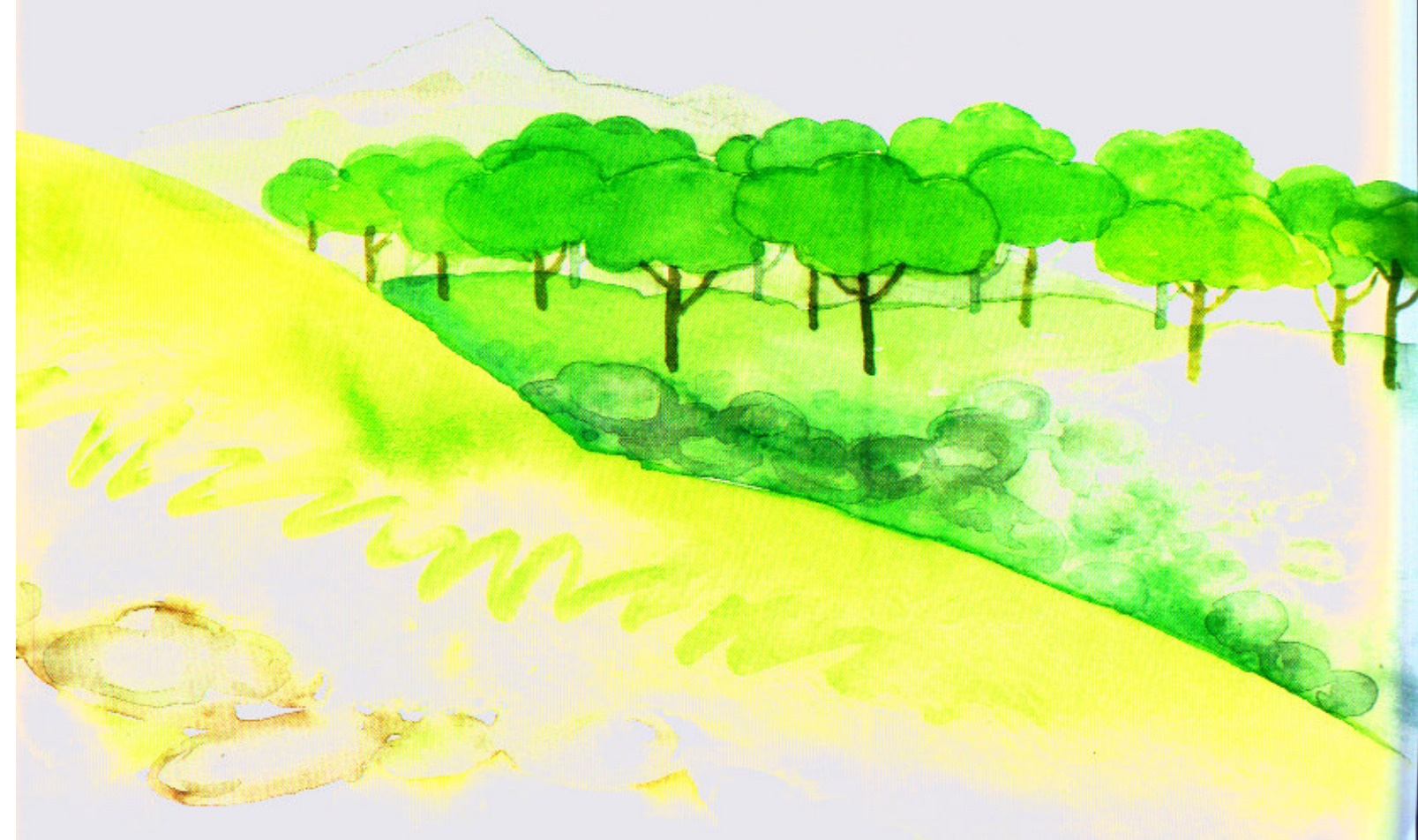
They used to play together, hunt together and eat together.







One day they came to know about the 'Longest Tail Contest' in the neighbouring jungle—Pitara.



The Snake said, "I'll swallow your tail in my mouth and everyone will think my body is an extension of your tail. Together we will win the contest."





The Mongoose agreed and they went to Pitara.





All the contestants were made to sit on a huge rock with their tails hanging down.

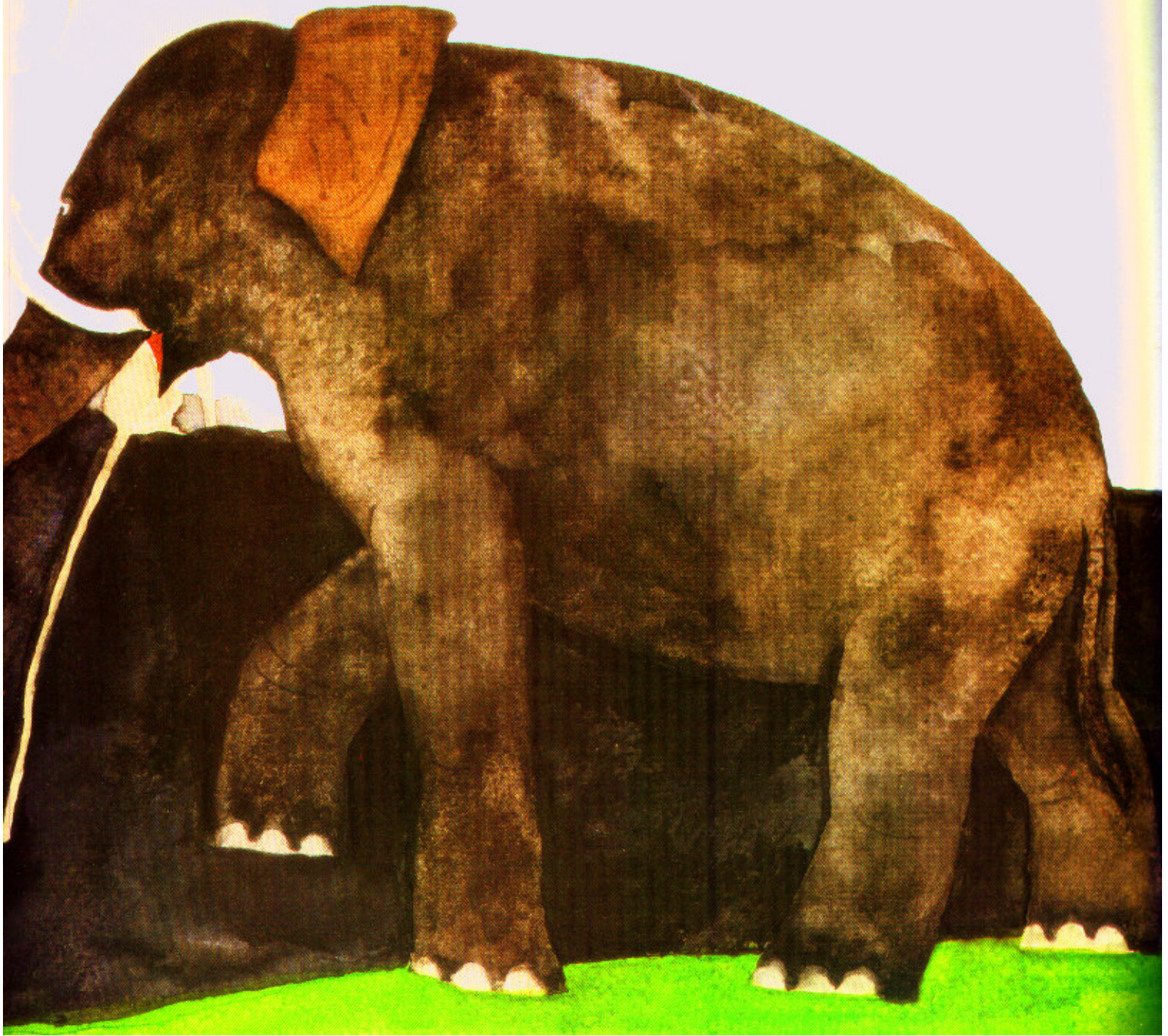




The King of the jungle, an Elephant, measured each tail with his trunk.



He finally declared the Mongoose as the winner. His tail was four 'trunks' long.

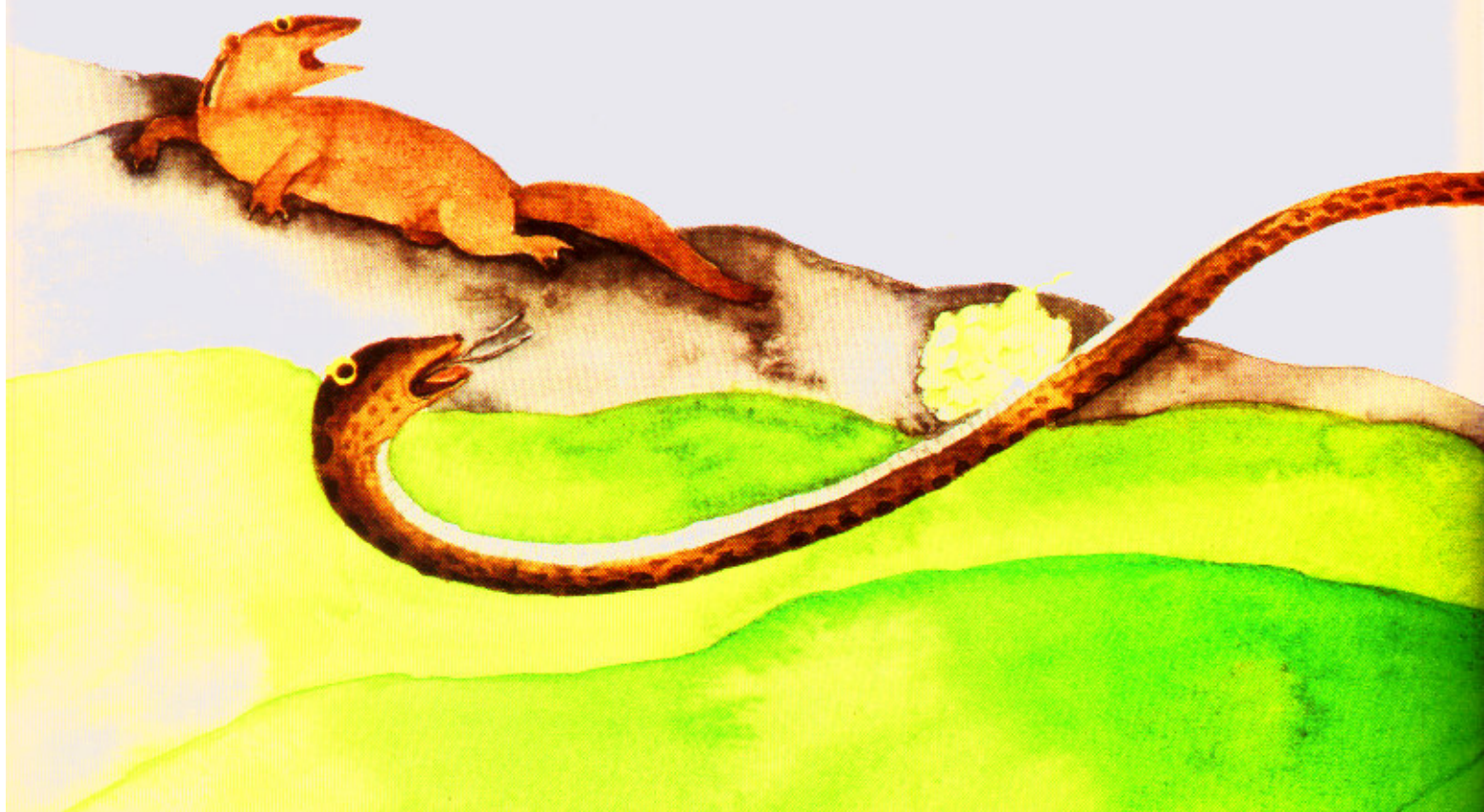


There was a grand party and the Mongoose enjoyed thoroughly forgetting all about the Snake. Hungry and angry, the Snake detached himself from the Mongoose and went looking for food.





Both the Snake and the Mongoose were caught by the elephant and thrown out.





The Snake and the Mongoose blamed each other . . .

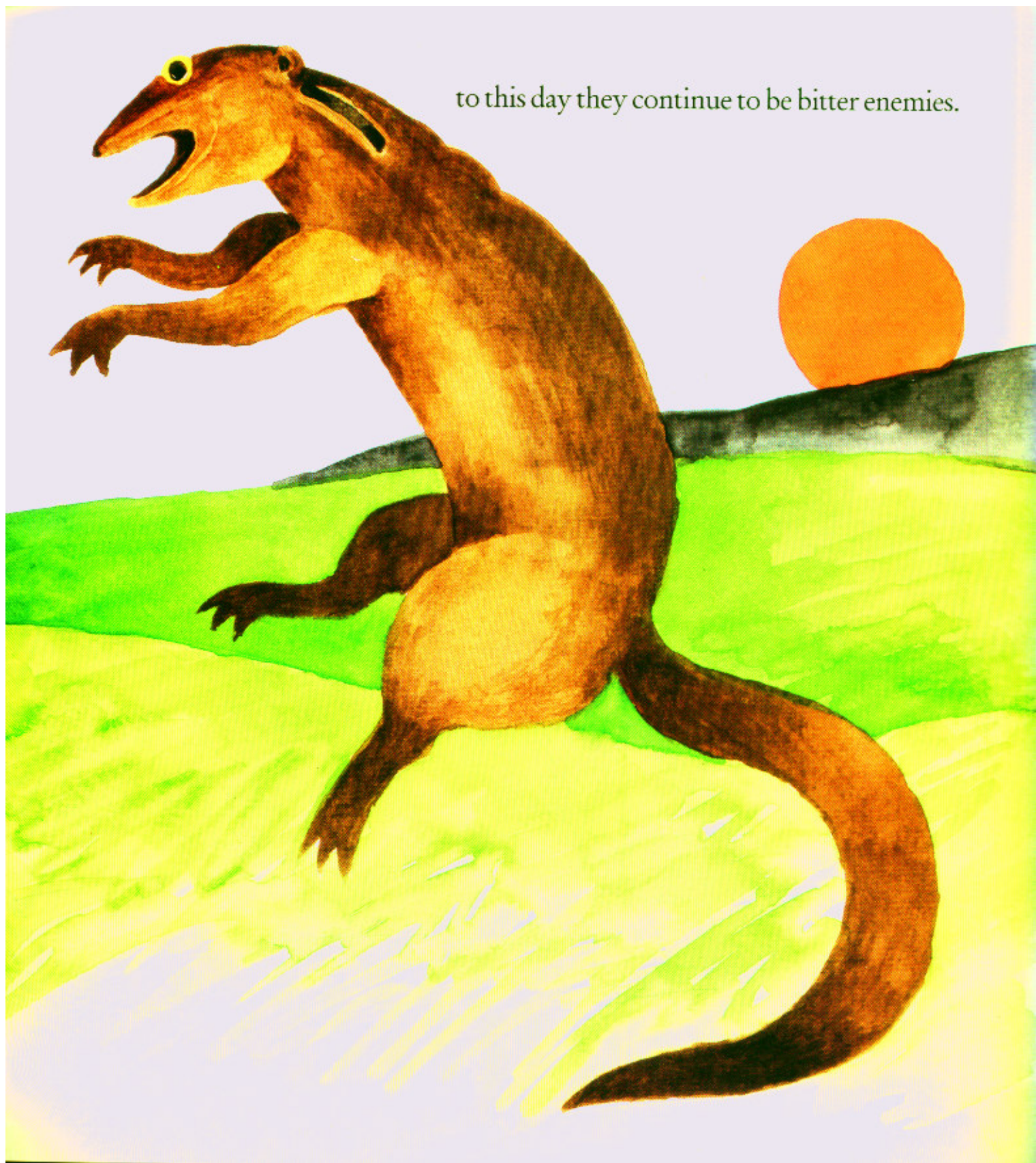




and got into a terrible fight . . .



to this day they continue to be bitter enemies.





Printed at M/s Royal Offset Printers, New Delhi.



National Book Trust, India

